



Arizona Freedom Award Celebration

Tuesday, June 29, 2010

Remarks by Gov. Jan Brewer

I am honored to be here with you today as we pay special tribute to Arizona companies who employ members of the National Guard and Reserve.

They understand the special circumstances of these true American patriots.

It is a privilege for me to share this event – the first time it is being held in Arizona – with:

- Phil Pope, Deputy Executive Director for the National Office for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve
- Bill Valenzuela, Arizona State Chair Emeritus for ESGR
- Scott Essex, Arizona Field Chair for ESGR
- and, of course, General Hugo Salazar.

In a moment, we will pay special recognition to the winners of the National Freedom Award.

But, let me say to ALL of the companies here today – every single one of you has Arizona's deep gratitude and appreciation for recognizing just how essential the National Guard and Reserve are to the strength of our nation.

Members of the National Guard and Reserve are engaged in far away places, in long and difficult struggles.

They answered our country's call with a calm and courage that defines Americans and their love of freedom.

And, by supporting them, you here this afternoon demonstrate your own magnificent patriotism -- placing patriotism ahead of profit.

You lift national interest above your own interest, in a variety of ways – whether it is providing full pay or benefits or job security to your employees who are answering duty's call, just as many of those early patriots did.

When liberty is threatened, members of the Army National Guard, the Army Reserve, the Naval Reserve, the Marine Corps Reserve, the Air National Guard, the Air Force Reserve, and the Coast Guard Reserve -- men and women – are always ready to do their duty.

And, as with all conflicts, American families and American businesses proudly stand behind these brave warriors, as we say thank you for your quiet sacrifices – sacrifices that are far too often overlooked .

So, to all of you, I say thank you for your service to America, thank you for your service to Arizona, thank you for representing the best of the American soul.

God bless you and your families, God bless Arizona, and God bless the United States of America.

Thank you.